Dear Valued Patient,

Since March 23, UTHealth School of Dentistry at Houston (UTSD) has been limited to providing only emergency oral health care in our dental school clinics. This was due to the COVID-19 pandemic and guidelines from local, state and national agencies regarding the provision of oral health care during this time.

We are aware that your regular, ongoing care has been “on hold” during this time and that you are anxious to return to UTSD to complete your care. We are anxious to see you, too! We are pleased to announce that starting June 1, we will begin a phased reopening our clinics. As always, safety for you and our care providers is at the center of all our decisions.

We will be contacting you soon to discuss options for scheduling appointments for the summer. Please be aware that under our phased approach, all of our regular providers will not be available to see patients. We ask for your continued understanding as we offer the following options:

- If your care has been provided by a student, we will temporarily assign you to either a faculty member or resident for continued care during the summer. Dental and dental hygiene students will not be scheduling appointments or seeing patients during the summer. However, we encourage you and your student to stay in touch, as we anticipate you will return to their care in the fall.

- If your care has been provided by a faculty member in UT Dentists, we will do our best to appoint you with your usual provider. However, there may be instances in which you will be treated by a different provider.

- If a resident in one of our specialty clinics has been providing your care, we will do our best to continue your care with that resident. However, there may be instances in which you will be treated by a different provider.

With “safety first” as our goal, we have implemented several changes in our processes and safety procedures. These include checking temperatures and asking COVID-19 screening questions for everyone entering our building, and additional temperature checks and screening questions for patients at the start of the appointment. All employees and patients are required to wear masks while in our building, and we have arranged our waiting areas, elevators, and clinic spaces for social distancing. For additional details on other changes in our processes and our enhanced safety procedures please, visit [Go.uth.edu/utsd-safety](http://Go.uth.edu/utsd-safety).

We appreciate your patience as we move toward safely reopening our clinics. We look forward to reconnecting soon and welcoming you back into our care.

Sincerely,

UTHealth School of Dentistry